

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03143 200810Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7294
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3143

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, ENRG, MY

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND OTHER ECONOMIC NATIONALISTS

1. "WATAN", A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED BY UMNO OLD-GUARD SPOKESMAN KHIR JOHARI, RECENTLY EDITORIALLY ATTACKED FINANCE MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH DIRECTLY AND OTHER ECONOMIC NATIONALISTS INDIRECTLY ON A VARIETY OF CHARGES. RAZALEIGH WAS ATTACKED FOR HIS COMMENTS LAST YEAR ON "MINI-NATIONALIZATION" AND HIS ROLE IN PASSING THE PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT AND ITS ADVERSE EFFECT ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT. ECONOMIC NATIONALISTS IN GERNAL WERE CRITICIZED FOR THEIR ACTIONS ON THE INDUSTRIAL COORDINATION ACT AND ITS ADVERSE EFFECT ON INVESTMENT.

2. SIGNIFICANTLY THE EDITORIAL WAS THE FIRST PUBLISHED ARTICLE LINKING RAZALEIGH WITH DETAINEES SAMAD ISMAIL AND FORMER DEPUTY MINISTERS ABDULLAH AHMAD AND ABDULLAH MAJID WHO ARE BEING HELD UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT FOR PRO-COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES, ALTHOUG H THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FOUR WITH EACH OTHER IS WELL KNOWN AND COMMENTED ON IN PRIVATE

3. COMMENT: THE ECONOMIC NATIONALISTS IN GENERAL HAVE BEEN
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PAGE 02 KUALA 03143 200810Z

UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK FOR ABOUT THE LAST YEAR. RAZALEIGH, WHO WAS CLOSELY TIED WITH THE FORMER DEPUTY MINISTERS AND SAMAD ISMAIL, HAS SUFFERED A LOSS OF INFLUENCE DURING THE PERIOD AND WAS SACKED FROM HIS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF PETRONAS LAST FALL. THE RECENT "WATAN" ATTACK APPARENTLY REPRESENTS THE UMNO OLD-GUARD ATTEMPT TO KEEP RAZALEIGH ON THE RUN AND MINIMIZE HIS INFLUENCE IN THE PARTY AS WELL AS WITHIN THE

GOVERNMENT AND TO DILUTE THE INFLUENCE OF THE ECONOMIC

NATIONALISTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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